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A Colonel's Mishap.

A FARCE COMEDY.

IN ONE ACT.

—BY—

PHILLIP PINKOPKI.

6562 W'

—x—

——TO WHICH IS ADDED——

A DESCRIPTION OF THE COSTUMES—CAST OF THE CHARACTERS—ENTRANCES AND EXITS—RELATIVE POSITIONS OF THE PERFORMERS ON THE STAGE, AND THE WHOLE OF THE STAGE BUSINESS.

—x—

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——CLYDE, OHIO:——
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CAST OF CHARACTERS.

COLONEL SLUMPKINS... ..... *Of the Salvation Army*
COLONEL SMYTHE..... *Of the Michigan Militia*
MR. BYRNES..... *Of Muskegan*
JOHN EDWIN BOWIS..... *Station Master*
JAMES DRAKE..... *His chum*

PS635
.Z9P655

—x—

SCENE—Gents' Waiting Room at Muskegan Depot

—x—

TIME OF PLAYING—THIRTY MINUTES.

—x—

TMP96-006931

STAGE DIRECTIONS.

R., means Right; L., Left; R. H., Right Hand; L. H., Left Hand; C., Centre; S. E. [2d E.,] Second Entrance; U. E., Upper Entrance; M. D., Middle Door; F., the Flat F. F., Door in Flat; R. C., Right of Centre; L. C., Left of Centre.

R. R. C. C. L. C. L.

*** The reader is supposed to be upon the stage facing the audience.

A Colonel's Mishap.

SCENE—Waiting room in Depot.

JOHN EDWIN BOWTS *discovered fixing room in order.*

John Edwin Bowts. There must have been a smash-up on the road. (*takes a large watch from pocket*) It's already eight o'clock and not a sign of that seven-thirty train! Maybe they have been caught in Citizens Trains tracks, and are now spinning around the world. By-the-way—I forgot to read my New York World that I picked up in the depot this morning. (*takes paper from pocket—looks it over*) Here's an article that ought to interest me. (*reads*) "How Railroads Should be Run, by John., C. M. Depot." I wonder if he knows any more about it than I? (*reads*) "Railroads should always be run on tracks." Well, I don't believe in having them run on temperance principals. (*reads*) "Managers would find it to their advantage to have their trains always on time." They do over in Waterbury. This is a good piece of advice for our managers, for that train that is due here at seven-thirty is almost an hour late. The last we heard from it, it was at the station above, about ten miles. I shouldn't be surprised to see the nine o'clock train arrive ahead of it.

Enter, R. 1 E., COLONEL SLUMPKINS *of the Salvation Army, with a large carpet bag, hat box, umbrella, etc.*

Bowts. Anything you don't want?

Colonel Slumpkins. Young man, I desire some information in regard to the delay of the seven-thirty train to Oskosh.

Bowts. Very sorry; don't know anything about it! But if you wish to take the trouble to go to the station above, I think they will be able to let you know all about it.

Col. S. Young man, can you tell me the distance to the next station?

Bowts. Yes; it's about ten miles, a yard more or less.

Col. S. I don't think that I will trouble myself to go.

Bowts. I thought not!

Col. S. Young man, would you favor me in finding out the desired information for a liberal consideration?

Bowts. Certainly.

Col. S. (*takes wallet from pocket and takes a nickel from it—hands to him*) Take this, young man, and see that you earn it well!

BOWTS *takes the money, looks it over, bites it and drops it on the floor to see if it is good.*

Bowts. Five cents! (*disgusted*) Say, general, you can call around to-morrow and I will give you the information in full.

Col. S. Excuse me, young man, I am not a general! I am only a colonel.

Bowts. (*surprised*) You a colonel in the army?

Col. S. Yes—the Salvation Army.

(*opens coat and shows his army shirt*

Bowts. I almost thought so! So you are a soldier?

Col. S. Yes—I am His soldier. (*looking upward*) Do you want to be saved? (*puts all his things on floor except his carpet bag, which he attempts to open*) Allow me, young man, to present you with one of our official organs.

Bowts. No, thanks! I am very sorry to say that my musical education has been sadly neglected; and organ grinding has no charms for me, anyway.

Col. S. (*takes paper from carpet bag*) Excuse me, young man, you misunderstand me. (*hands him paper*

Bowts. Oh, I see! Thanks! I'll read this later. Say, colonel, what have you done for the army? Have you reformed anyone?

Col. S. Indeed, many! I knew a gentleman that became intoxicated once a week regularly; now that only happens once a month, and— (*bell rings outside*—COL. SLUMPKINS *starts to rush out*

Bowts. No hurry, my friend; that isn't the train you want.

Col. S. Young man, I think I will investigate!

(*gathers up his things and exits* R. 1 E.

Bowts. I wonder if there are many persons like him?

(*noise heard* R. E.

Enter, MR. BYRNES, R. E.

Mr. Byrnes. Hallo, young fellow! Where's that half past seven train to Oskosh?

Bowts. I'm sure I haven't it around me!

Byrnes. Don't exasperate me! Always something or other happening when I am in a hurry. This is a devilish looking place.

Bowts. If we had known you were coming, we would have put up a new depot with all the modern improvements.

Byrnes. Young fellow, do you know to whom you are talking?

Bowts. Don't know—don't care!

Byrnes. I am Mr. Byrnes, of Muskegan, of the firm of Byrnes, Rogers and Byrnes—fire and life insurance agents, with offices at Muskegan, Kalamazo and Burnside.

Bowts. I guess your identity is fully established. You, sir, have the honor of speaking to John Edwin Bowts, Esq., formerly of Oskosh, by gosh—no more or less!

Byrnes. Glad to meet you! (*they shake hands*) How's your heart? (*passes* BOWTS *a cigar*

Bowts. Very good.

Byrnes. (*looking around room*) Say, John Edwin Booth—

Bowts. I beg your pardon—Bowts, with the accent on the "ow."

Byrnes. Well, did you see a colonel, or anything that resembles one, wandering around here to-day?

Bowts. Yes, there was one around here only five minutes ago.

Byrnes. Good! Dangerous looking?

Bowts. (*sarcastically*) Awfully!

Byrnes. Here's for your information! (*hands money*) Wet your whistle with it; give it a good drenching!

Bowts. Certainly—thank you! (*exit* L. 1 E.

Byrnes. (*takes letter from pocket*) To think of a daughter of mine eloping! Damme, I can't think of it! A daughter of Byrnes, Byrnes of Muskegan—horrible! (*reads letter*) "Dear Father: I am going away with a colonel, a brave, handsome officer. Yours forever, Emily." That was all she left.

Enter, COLONEL SMYTHE, R. 1 E., *unobserved—listens.*

—When I come in contact with that colonel, there will be little remaining of him after I get through.

Col. Smythe. (*aside*) If he only knew that the colonel he wishes to lay his fingers on was with him now! I have an idea! I will throw him off the track. (*to* BYRNES) Permit me!

Byrnes. What's that?

Smythe. (*aside*) I'm getting nervous! (*to* BYRNES) I beg your pardon. I overheard your remarks in regard to a colonel. It has not been ten minutes since I saw a colonel around here, who might be the very person you are after.

Byrnes. Thank you! You understand my daughter has eloped with this colonel. I am Byrnes of Muskegan, of the firm of Byrnes, Rogers and Byrnes, fire and life insurance agents. No doubt you have heard of me?

Smythe. Of course, of course!

Byrnes. Can't I insure your life?

Smythe. Certainly. (*aside*) I'll be able to leave his daughter a little pin money in case he gets the best of me. (*to* BYRNES) Make out a policy for five thousand, Mr. Byrnes.

Byrnes. Better make it ten thousand, young man! There is nothing like leaving your wife independent after you're gone. I suppose you are married?

Smythe. Yes; my marriage occurred only three days ago.

Byrnes. I suppose you married a girl of your choice. By-the-by, with your three days' experience, have you managed to find marriage a failure?

Smythe. I have nothing to complain of.

Byrnes. I'll make that colonel of mine think marrying a girl without parental consent, is a failure.

Smythe. (*looking out* R. E.) Why, if I'm not mistaken, here comes the colonel this way. Mr. Byrnes, I will leave you to deal with him; and I hope you will not be too hard on the colonel. Remember you would not have been any better than the colonel, had you been placed in his position.

Byrnes. All right; I'll deal with him as I think best!

Smythe. I will meet you later! (*exit* L. 1 E.

Byrnes. I wonder if the colonel is very dangerous to handle? Well, I must have it out with him, anyway!

Enter, COL. SLUMPKINS, R. 1 E.

—You villain!

Col. S. Excuse me—I am not a villain! I am a good man.

Byrnes. Come and let me look at my future son-in-law.

Col. S. (*aside*) The gentleman must be insane!

Byrnes. Are you the colonel?

Col. S. I think the good people call me by that honored title.

Byrnes. (*disgusted—aside*) Brave! handsome! gallant soldier! (*takes coat off—rolls up sleeves*) Are you sure you are a colonel in the army?

Col. S. I pray, dear sir, do not be alarmed! I'm sure I will not harm you.

Byrnes. Do you know who I am? I am Byrnes of Muskegan. I am her father!

Col. C. I beg your pardon.

Byrnes. What have you done with my daughter, you villain!

Col. S. Excuse me, I am a good man. I harm no one; and I devote all my time to Him. (*looking upward*) Do you want to be saved?

Byrnes. I'll save you! Defend yourself, you villain!

(*rushes at him they struggle*

Col. S. Help! help!

Enter, BOWTS *and* JAMES DRAKE, R. 1 E.—*they separate them.*

Bowts. Stop this, gentlemen!

(COL. SLUMPKINS *rushes out* R. 1 E., *leaving papers behind*

Byrnes. Hold on—I am not half through with that villain yet!

(*rushes out* R. 1 E.

Bowts. They were enjoying themselves immensely.

James Drake. I should say so! Very plucky, full of fight—that colonel!

Bowts. He has left some papers behind. Let's see what they are! (*takes up papers*) Here's some literature of a fiery sort! (*reads*) "Save yourself from Satan!" "The War Scream!" "Brother Slumpkins has been appointed a colonel, and is to organize an army at Oskosh." Say, that's the fellow that was having this friendly set-to here a little while ago; he has opened out well. (*again reads*) "As some of our brethren journeyed up the Effel tower at the Paris Exposition, they sang, "Nearer, My God, to Thee." Say, Drake, that's a joke.

Drake. Thanks—I see!

Bowts. (*reading*) "The official barber of the Army has the following sign displayed over his shop: 'Come and be shaved!'" (DRAKE *laughs*) What's tickling you, partner? Cherp it out! let's hear it!

Drake. I have had a very queer experience. About a year ago, a man met me and asked me to change a fifty dollar bill for him.

Bowts. Keep it up.

Drake. I happened to have about ten dollars around me; he asked me to let him have that, for he wanted to loan that amount to a friend with him. I gave it to him and he gave me the fifty dollar bill to go and have it changed.

Bowts. Very good.

Drake. The man disappeared—the fifty dollar bill was a counterfeit.

Bowts. Very good for the other fellow.

Drake. To-day I met that very same fellow; he didn't recognize me—I did him! He came up to me and offered me a watch for ten dollars. I bought it; it was a dummy.

Bowts. I pity you, my friend.

Drake. I gave him a fifty dollar bill; he gave me forty dollars change. That fifty dollar bill was the very same counterfeit one that he gave me a year ago; the change he gave me was good money. So I am just forty dollars in—see?

Bowts. Yes; and I'll see you to the nearest apothecary.

(*exeunt*, R. 1 E., *singing "We've both been there before"*

Enter, COL. SLUMPKINS, L. 1 E., *a total wreck.*

Col. S. I think I have been badly imposed upon. This is getting to be dangerous both to body and soul. My life is in jeopardy. How I wish I was back in camp. Some people are so inconsiderate. The boys on the street playfully toss at me ancient vegetables, and eggs of unknown ages and pedigree; and that mad man has been pursuing me throughout the village. If he attempts to harm me, I will think it my duty to defend myself. I do wish that train would arrive. I would very much like to know if that young man who has charge of this place has earned that five cents yet. I will go and investigate. (*starts* R.

Enter, BYRNES, R. 1 E.—*stops him.*

Byrnes. Ah, just in time! You don't escape me, sir! No—not until I get through with you, understand?

Col. S. (*aside*) The mad man!

Byrnes. You know me. I am Byrnes—Byrnes of Muskegan!

Col. S. I think we have had a little interview before.

Byrnes. Yes, and that was interrupted just as we were coming to the point. A man that takes my daughter and goes off with her without my authority, is a villain, a black villain!

Col. S. (*aside*) I must humor him. (*aloud*) Of course! I think you are correct in your observations of that case.

Byrnes. You own up? That's right! Now, tell me, where is my daughter?

Col. S. (*aside*) Poor man! He is always thinking of his daughter—something must have happened to her.

Byrnes. Come, be quick!

Col. S. My dear sir, I am sure I know not where your daughter is.

Byrnes. Why don't you?

Col. S. Because I have not the pleasure of knowing your daughter.

Byrnes. Do you dare to defy me? I, Byrnes—Byrnes of Muskegan. Don't enrage me!

Col. S. My dear sir, I think this is going too far, and I warn you not to trouble me any more.

Byrnes. Come, I'll give you a few minutes to consider. (*takes out watch*) Your time will soon expire.

Col. S. And so shall I, if no one comes to my assistance.

Byrnes. Your time is up. Are you ready to divulge where my daughter is?

Col. S. No, sir, I cannot. I warn you, I am a desperate man. (*shakes umbrella at him*

Byrnes. You are, are you? (*getting hold of* SLUMPKINS *and shak-*

ing him) Damme, I'll fin'sh what I started to do before!

Col. S. Help! help! Save me!

Enter, BOWTS *and* DRAKE, R. E.—SMYTHE L. E

Bowts. Hallo, what's this?

Drake. Are they at it again? I'll bet a dollar on the colonel.

Smythe. Stop it, gentlemon! Stop it! (*they separate them*

Byrnes. Let me get at him! Let me get at him!

Col. S. Save me! Save me!

Col. S. Byrnes, you have made a mistake! You have the wrong man.

Byrnes. What? Byrnes, of Muskegan, guilty of such an error? Impossible!

Smpthe. I am the man you want. I am Colonel Smythe, of the Michigan militia. The other gentleman is Colonel Slumpkins of the Salvation Army.

Byrnes. Great news! I am glad to have you for a son-in-law. Shake, old boy! (*they shake hands*) (*to* SLUMPKINS) Colonel Slumpkins, accept my apologies! Very sorry to have caused you all this trouble.

Col. S. Mention it not!

Byrnes. (*handing him money*) Devote this to your cause. Any time you are in Muskegan call on me. (*bell rings outside*) Gentlemen, here's the train at last! All aboard!

BYRNES *and* SMYTHE *start to exit through* R. E.—BOWTS *and* DRAKE *opposite entrance—bell rings again and* SLUMPKINS *walks through window in rear of stage.*

CURTAIN.

THE END.

Ames' Plays---Continued.

NO.		M	F
	FARCES AND COMEDIETTAS.		
129	Aar-u-ag-oos	2	1
132	Actor and Servant	1	1
12	A Capital Match	3	2
166	A Texan Mother-in-Law	4	6
30	A Day Well Spent	7	5
169	A Regular Fix	2	4
80	Alarmingly Suspicious	4	3
78	An Awful Criminal	3	3
65	An Unwelcome Return	3	1
31	A Pet of the Public	4	2
21	A Romantic Attachment	3	3
123	A Thrilling Item	3	1
20	A Ticket of Leave	3	2
175	Betsey Baker	2	2
8	Better Half	5	2
86	Black vs. White	4	2
22	Captain Smith	3	3
84	Cheek Will Win	3	0
225	Cupid's Capers	4	4
49	Der Two Surprises	1	1
72	Deuce is in Him	5	1
19	Did I Dream it	4	3
42	Domestic Felicity	1	1
188	Dutch Prize Fighter	3	0
220	Dutchy vs. Nigger	3	0
148	Eh? What Did You Say	3	1
218	Everybody Astonished	4	0
224	Fooling with the Wrong Man	2	1
233	Freezing a Mother-in-Law	2	1
154	Fun in a Post Office	4	2
184	Family Discipline	0	1
274	Family Jars	5	2
209	Goose with the Golden Eggs	5	3
13	Give Me My Wife	3	3
66	Hans, the Dutch J. P.	3	1
271	Hans Brummel's Cafe	5	0
116	Hash	4	2
120	H. M. S. Plum	1	1
103	How Sister Paxey got her Child Baptized	2	1
50	How She has Own Way	1	3
140	How He Popped the Quest'n.	1	1
74	How to Tame Mother-in-Law	4	2
35	How Stout Your Getting	5	2
47	In the Wrong Box	3	0
95	In the Wrong Clothes	5	3
11	John Smith	5	3
99	Jumbo Jum	4	3
82	Killing Time	1	1
182	Kittie's Wedding Cake	1	3
127	Lick Skillet Wedding	2	2
228	Lauderbach's Little Surprise	3	0
106	Lodgings for Two	3	0
139	Matrimonial Bliss	1	1
231	Match for a Mother-in-Law	2	2
235	More Blunders than one	4	3
69	Mother's Fool	6	1
158	Mr. Hudson's Tiger Hunt	1	1
23	My Heart's in Highlands	4	3
208	My Precious Betsey	4	4
212	My Turn Next	4	3
32	My Wife's Relations	4	4

NO.		M	F.
186	My Day and Now-a-Days	0	1
273	My Neighbor's Wife	3	3
44	Obedience	1	2
244	Old Clothes	3	0
33	On the Sly	3	2
246	Othello	4	1
57	Paddy Miles' Boy	5	2
217	Patent Washing Machine	4	1
165	Persecuted Dutchman	6	3
195	Poor Pilicody	2	3
258	Prof. Bones' Latest Invention	5	0
159	Quiet Family	4	4
171	Rough Diamond	4	3
180	Ripples	2	0
267	Room 44	2	0
48	Schnaps	1	1
138	Sewing Circle of Period	0	5
115	S. H. A. M. Pinafore	3	3
55	Somebody's Nobody	3	2
243	Sports on a Lark	3	0
232	Stage Struck Yankee	4	2
238	Strawberry Shortcake	2	0
270	Slick and Skinner	5	0
1	Slasher and Crasher	5	2
137	Taking the Census	1	1
40	That Mysterious B'dle	2	2
245	Ticket Taker	3	0
38	The Bewitched Closet	5	2
131	The Cigarette	4	2
101	The Coming Man	3	1
167	Turn Him Out	3	2
68	The Sham Professor	4	0
54	The Two T. J's	4	2
253	The Best Cure	4	1
28	Thirty-three Next Birthday	4	2
142	Tit for Tat	2	1
276	The Printer and His Devils	3	1
263	Trials of a Country Editor	6	2
7	The Wonderful Telephone	3	1
269	Unjust Justice	6	2
213	Vermont Wool Dealer	5	3
151	Wanted a Husband	2	1
56	Wooing Under Difficulties	5	3
70	Which will he Marry	2	8
135	Widower's Trials	4	5
147	Waking Him Up	1	2
155	Why they Joined the Rebeccas	0	4
111	Yankee Duelist	3	1
157	Yankee Peddler	7	3
	ETHIOPIAN FARCES.		
204	Academy of Stars	6	0
15	An Unhappy Pair	1	1
172	Black Shoemaker	4	2
98	Black Statue	4	2
222	Colored Senators	3	0
214	Chops	3	0
145	Cuff's Luck	2	1
190	Crimps Trip	5	0
249	Double Election	9	1
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230	Hamlet the Dainty	6	1
153	Haunted House	2	0

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NO.		M	F.
	ETHIOPIAN FARCES—CONT'UED.		
24	Handy Andy	2	0
236	Hypochondriac The	2	0
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